AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 (currently amended). An electric toothbrush, comprising:

a handle having a cavity;

a head ~~having a channel~~;

a flexible neck extending between said handle and said head, said flexible neck comprising at least a first and second polymer;

a movable bristle carrier disposed on said head;

a motor disposed within said cavity;

a shaft disposed within said flexible neck and operatively connected to said movable bristle carrier and to said motor; ~~and~~

wherein said head and said flexible neck comprise a channel, said channel extending through said flexible neck and into said head; and

wherein said neck can flex at least about 5 degrees when a force of at least about 4 N is applied to said head.

2-7 (canceled).

8 (previously presented). The electric toothbrush of claim 1, wherein said first polymer is selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polystyrene, acrylonitrile-styrene copolymer, and cellulose acetate-propionate, and mixtures thereof.

9 (previously presented). The electric toothbrush of claim 1, wherein said second polymer is selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic elastomer, a thermoplastic olefin, a soft thermoplastic polyolefin, and an elastomer.

10 (original). The electric toothbrush of claim 1, wherein said neck is sufficiently flexible to permit said head to be reversibly laterally displaced an angle of from about 25 degrees

to about 5 degrees, with respect to a longitudinal axis of said toothbrush prior to being displaced.

11 (original). The electric toothbrush of claim 1, wherein said neck is sufficiently flexible to permit said head to be reversibly rearwardly displaced an angle of from about 15 degrees to about 5 degrees with respect to a longitudinal axis of said toothbrush prior to being displaced.

12 (original). The electric toothbrush of claim 1, wherein said neck is sufficiently flexible to permit said head to be reversibly forwardly displaced an angle of from about 15 degrees to about 5 degrees with respect to a longitudinal axis of said toothbrush prior to being displaced.

13 (original). The electric toothbrush of claim 1, wherein said shaft is a flexible ribbon.

14 (original). The electric toothbrush of claim 1, wherein said channel has an elliptical cross-sectional shape.

15 (original). The electric toothbrush of claim 1, wherein said neck has an elliptical cross-sectional shape.

16 (new). The electric toothbrush of claim 1, wherein said first and said second polymer are a blend.

17 (new). The electric toothbrush of claim 16, wherein the Shore A hardness of said second polymer is from about 25 to about 85.

18 (new). The electric toothbrush of claim 16, wherein the weight ratio of said first polymer to said second polymer is from about 95:5 to about 30:70.

19 (new). The electric toothbrush of claim 16, wherein the Shore A hardness of said second polymer is from about 25 to about 45 and the weight ratio of said first polymer to said second polymer is from about 90:10 to about 60:35.

20 (new). The electric toothbrush of claim 16, wherein the Shore A hardness of said second polymer is from about 45 to about 65 and the weight ratio of said first polymer to said second polymer is from about 80:20 to about 50:50.

21 (new). The electric toothbrush of claim 16, wherein the Shore A hardness of said second polymer is from about 65 to about 85 and the weight ratio of said first polymer to said second polymer is from about 70:30 to about 40:60.

22 (new). The electric toothbrush of claim 16, wherein said first polymer is selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polystyrene, acrylonitrile-styrene copolymer, and cellulose acetate-propionate, and mixtures thereof.

23 (new). The electric toothbrush of claim 16, wherein said second polymer is selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic elastomer, a thermoplastic olefin, a soft thermoplastic polyolefin, and an elastomer.